

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8350

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3620

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO SISCO MAY 7 SPEECH

1. MAY 9 ISRAELI PRESS PROMINENTLY FEATURES AND QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM ASST SEC SISCO' S SPEECH DELIVERED ON OCCASION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG PAPERS THAT SISCO' S SPEECH WAS A BALANCED AND TIMELY RESTATEMENT OF US VIEWS ON NEED FOR ARAB- ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND ON CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL' S SECURITY. HAARETZ' S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT TERMED SPEECH " A WELL- FORMULATED HISTORICAL REVIEW OF STATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS STATED IN A SIMPLE AND FRANK PERSONAL STYLE." DAVAR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT LANDRES DRAWS ATTENTION TO SISCO' S WARNING THAT ALTERING UNSC RESOLUTION 242 WOULD PREJUDICE CHANCES OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES AND INTERPRETS THIS AS MEANING US WILL OPPOSE ANY EGYPTIAN ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN RESOLUTION 242 IN IMPENDNG SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. MAARIV WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SEGEV SAYS THAT SPEECH IS " IN MANY RESPECTS AS GOOD AS UNCLASSIFIED

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A DECLARATION OF WAR ON THE STATUS QUO IN THE MIDDLE EAST," AND THAT AUDIENCE WAS LEFT WITH NO DOUBT THAT US IS FIRMLY DETERMINED TO PROMOTE PROCESS OF BRINGING PARTIES TO DISPUTE TOGETHER FOR NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

2. PRESS NOTES WITH SATISFACTION SISCO' S REMARKS THAT RESOLUTION 242 DOES NOT LAY DOWN ANY BORDERS AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN A RETURN TO LINES OF JUNE 5, 1967. PRESS ALSO NOTES STATEMENT THAT PEACE CANNOT BE IMPOSED BY OUTSIDE POWERS BUT MUST BE BASED ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

3. SOME ARTICLES, INCLUDING ONLY EDITORIAL SO FAR (HATZOFE), HIGHLIGHT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ' S REMARKS FOCUSING ON SISCO' S STATEMENT THAT SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE IS " A HISTORY OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES," ON PART OF BOTH ISRAEL AND ARAB COUNTRIES. DINITZ' S SPEECH IS INTERPRETED BY SOME AS REBUTTING THIS VIEWPOINT AND LAYING BLAME ON ARABS FOR OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN MISSED. HATZOFE EDITORIAL TOOK VIEW SISCO WAS INACCURATE ON THIS POINT, CITING MRS MEIR' S MAY 6 STATEMENT SHE HAD SENT MESSAGE TO SADAT, AND SAID " THERE IS NO REASON TO ADDRESS COMPLAINTS TO ISRAEL AND GIVE HER A PEPTALK ABOUT LOST OPPORTUNITIES."

4. ONLY OFFICIAL REACTION REPORTED THUS FAR WAS COMMENT BY FONMIN EBAN AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE MAY 8 THAT SISCO' S SPEECH, LIKE PRESIDENT' S AND SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGES, SHOWED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN US MIDDLE EAST POLICY.

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